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The Loyal League of Porcupines.

The venerable LYMAN J. GAGE, once Secretary of the Treasury and now living in philosophical retirement in San Diego, California, is on record in an interview with the Chicago Tribune as willing to stand sponsor for the Brisk and Bristling Order of American Porcupines. He would have a favorable response to the query "Are you a Porcupine?" the answer to recognition in the brotherhood of those who believe our national policy in the matter of war equipment should not be based on Chinese standards.

The sage of San Diego would have us behold the porcupine and study him in our ponderings over war preparedness. The porcupine swaggers not, neither does he attack anybody. The yarn about his projecting his barbed quills like a cloud of needle pointed javelins at innocent bystanders has long ago been exploded. His ways are ways of pleasantness if he is let alone. His paths are paths of peace if he is not impudently snubbed up.

But when he is attacked by dogs or wolves of war, then he is able to provide each and every one of them, first come first served, with so filling and so warm a mouthful that they seldom pass up their plates for a second helping. A dog-dachshund, bulldog, French poodle or Siberian bloodhound, it makes no difference what breed—with his muzzle, mouth and throat a cheval de frise of porcupine quills has too much on his mind for the profitable study of future aggressive campaigns.

And that is what ex-Secretary GAGE would have our United States become—a decent, law abiding porcupine, minding our own business, with not one cent for attack on our neighbors, but millions of keenly barbed quills bristling for defense.

A standing army of 200,000 men, harbors and seacoasts and the vitally important canal equipped up to the last word of scientific armament, in front of all this a naval line of first defense equal to any afloat, and back of all 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 citizen soldiers armed and equipped such as Plattsburg is just now showing us how to turn out.

That is the kind of porcupine the spirit of Secretary of the Treasury would have us become, and it is pleasant to note that the quiet porcupine movement is showing a tendency to spread in the middle and the far West like a prairie fire.

Francis Joseph at Eighty-five.

Austria-Hungary and Germany yesterday united in celebrating the eighty-fifth birthday of Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH. Of these eighty-five years he has spent sixty-seven as a ruler, one of the longest reigns in the world's history, the longest of an actual ruler in the history of modern Europe. He ascended the throne in 1848, eleven years after Queen Victoria's accession, and he has survived her almost fifteen years. Louis XIV. was King of France for seventy-two years, but for eighteen of these years he reigned but did not rule. FRANCIS JOSEPH succeeded to the Hapsburg throne at nineteen and was called upon to solve some of the most serious problems of state that ever confronted a monarch.

Some of these times has solved; others are as vital today as when he received them as a heritage from his ancestors. In his long reign almost every calamity that can be conceived has fallen upon him. Never once in all those years did he return from war in triumph to his capital; instead, he has suffered loss of territory, defeats on the field of battle, and has seen the monarchy over which he rules torn by the fierce internal strife of its diverse races. His beloved and beautiful Empress was slain in a foreign land by an assassin, his son and chief hope was mysteriously killed, his nephew, whom he had trained in his old age as his successor, was shot dead by one of his subjects. A man of sorrows; it is little wonder that when the news of the last of these tragedies was brought to him the old Emperor exclaimed, "Why have they smothered me?"

In 1849, the year of the revolt in Hungary, and in 1859, the time of the occupation of the north Italian provinces, he was hated because to the people of these races he represented all that "Hapsburg tyranny and oppression" could be conceived to represent. But with the loss of the Italian provinces and the separation of Hungary and its establishment as a kingdom caused of bitterness were removed and he became to the Dual Monarchy the Good Kaiser, the power that alone could hold together and mould into one nation the strange heterogeneous population.

He became, too, the guardian of the peace of Europe. His country, a State in itself of congeries of warring races and tongues, he came to regard as "the keystone of the arch of European peace." His stand for peace in 1908 against his own counselors saved Europe from war, and again in 1912 it was his conservatism, his plea for a peaceful solution of the problem, that confided the configuration to the Balkans alone.

Yet it was this man who had so long stood for peace who in his old age made the first declaration of hostility in the greatest war that Europe ever knew. What this must have added to his already heavy burden perhaps he alone knows.

Two War Pictures.

The latest Zeppelin raid in the southern counties of England tributary to London must be regarded as the most successful of the series, for ten non-combatants were killed and thirty-six injured or wounded, the casualties including twenty women and four children.

As a companion picture to the achievement of the Zeppelins there is the behavior of the British naval officer who overhauled the German trawler Gudrun, and when asked for time for lowering the boats to save the crew, replied:

"You can take the whole ship. We shall not harm you."

This may have been magnificent but it was not war as the Germans conduct it at sea and in the air.

The story that the men on the trawler Gudrun cheered the British officer for his magnanimity may nevertheless be true, as these Germans were simple fishermen and not combatants engaged in executing "frighfulness."

This Banner Mosquito Year.

According to guessers and other leading statisticians this is the liveliest and most social mosquito year since the Deluge. In the summer following that forty days and forty nights of abnormal humidity there were many depressions in the earth's surface, many topest tomato cans, many discarded shoes and many other incidental containers of water left when the flood subsided which would have been ideal incubators and nurseries for mosquitoes had they been stocked with fertilized eggs.

But when Noah took the animals into his ark he admitted only one pair of each sort, a male and a female. The embarkation of this favored happy family is mentioned in the epic which runs in part:

"The ant-hills came two by two,
The el-and-hills and the kan-go-roo."

The mosquitoes that marched up the gangplank with the elephants, fleas, rats, lions and others on that occasion of safety first when Unbelievers danced on the lawn and sang merrily as the first big drops fell.

"You can go to the devil with your damned old scow,
It ain't a-going to rain long anyhow"—these two mosquitoes were the hope of this particular branch of the well known, then as now, Culex family. It is not recorded that any of the animals, even the rabbits, bred while in the ark. So when the solitary mosquito descended from the ark to the solid ground of Mount Ararat and looked at a world of puddles she must have realized that, doing her level best, she could, because of the lateness of the season, lay only a few million eggs in time to make for herself and her progeny a showing in any way commensurate with the unprecedented opportunity incidental to the Great Deluge.

Naturalists tell us that an industrious female mosquito thinks nothing of laying a few million eggs before coming off her nest. Observation and experience indicate that all mosquitoes are industrious and that nearly all are females. So it is no wonder that NOAH'S pair of mosquitoes have done as well as they have up to and including the current season.

Contrary to popular belief, the mosquito is not an amphibian. He is a creature only of the water during the period of his incubation. After that stage he shuns the water wagon. While living in water he is commonly called a wiggler because his wiggles, which accounts for the fact that at no stage is he so designated by the scientists. They would scorn to call anything what it is commonly called for so obvious a reason. Soon after emerging from the water the mosquito takes on wings, very small wings, but, as the poet has observed:

"The butterfly is mostly wings,
The dragon's wings are flame,
The scorpion's wings are things,
But he gets there all the same."

That the mosquito was created for some purpose is beyond question. Not long ago the mosquito pundit said his sting was a prophylactic and later it was asserted that he was a purveyor of deadly infection. Be this as it may, he is a factor in the social and civic life of his time. Many a man and not to be ungalled, many a woman who never would have been known except as an exemplary member of the immediate community has become a personage of countrywide fame through being chosen president or presidentess of the borough Anti-Mosquito League.

But as a matter of fact there is a serious and scientific angle of the

mosquito question. The mosquito is commonly regarded as chiefly the enemy of mankind. There are perhaps at a rough guess a few million billions of mosquitoes at large in the earth in the ordinary mosquito season, saying nothing of the summer of 1915. The population of the globe is estimated at not far from a billion and a half. So it is not likely that more than one mosquito in several million billions ever stings a human creature to sleep and then partakes of his blood.

What have the scientists to say about this?

A Georgia Comment on the Lynching of Frank.

The principle of State rights has often been invoked in political controversy by the South, but we never expected to see it employed to extenuate or explain a mob's act of blood vengeance. And yet what else can be made out of the Macon Telegraph's editorial comment upon the Georgia lynching? We are told that "the fact that FRANK was convicted of a terrible crime and 'cheated the gallows through Executive commutation' is the apparent reason for his falling into the hands of a real Ku Klux band," but that there was another reason, the interference of people outside the State with the course of justice. In the view of the writer this latter seems to be the major and controlling reason for the raid on the State farm prison and the execution of the decree of Judge Lynch upon the person of Leo M. FRANK.

The interference, we are given to understand, took the form of comments by "four publications in particular," the utterances of "several Governors" and of "not a few Northern delegations invading Georgia." A feeling of resentment, "righteous resentment," was engendered, and the "vicious energy" of the critics outside the State provoked rejoinder in its defense. At this point TOM WATSON sprang into the breach with his "monthly and weekly publications widely read in Georgia," and "attacks were made on him by the outside press." It is not necessary to follow the Telegraph's version of WATSON'S venomous agitation, in which anti-Semitism played a prominent part, but the following is illuminating:

"Thus was Leo FRANK caught between the upper and nether millstones—the foolish, calumnious propaganda by alleged friends and the natural and justified resentment in Georgia against this outside interference, allied with the propaganda of WATSON, and his life was taken—he was killed as an unclean thing is killed and left for the buzzards."

That there may be no doubt of the writer's meaning, he concludes with the declaration that "such a thing can never happen again in Georgia," and that "it would never have happened had the rest of the nation left this State to mind its own business." The proposition, or intimation, that the administration of justice in any State should not be subject to criticism is singular and bewildering. If outside interference, that is to say, adverse comment, appeal and protest, is to provoke the people of a State to lynch a prisoner whose death sentence has been legally commuted by their Governor, then we have a monstrous example of the working of the State rights idea. It is rather hard on Georgia that such a view should be advanced.

The Other Side of Rock Island.

If the Interstate Commerce Commission had gone deeper into the affairs of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Company, it would have included among the enumeration of things a railroad company should avoid the fundamental error of the holding company plan. This was the rock upon which the company split. Its chief difficulties have arisen from impaired credit.

In the years that have intervened since the old company was taken over, such properties as the Pennsylvania Railroad, the New York Central, the Union and Southern Pacific, the Great Northern, the Northern Pacific and the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul have raised enormous sums of capital through "stock issues." The share capital of the Rock Island remains unaltered at \$75,000,000. It looked the stock hard and fast in the holding company device and was forced to finance through bond issues. This eventually expanded its funded obligations beyond its ability to maintain an unimpaired credit.

The same manifest errors of a faulty financial plan attended the founding of the Chicago and Alton road, with similar results of impaired credit, and of truth they are of too frequent occurrence for the good name of American finance.

But after all said and done, the great mistakes have sprung from faulty laws, the diversity of laws, that place a premium on development too rapid for safety. The Rock Island is a great property, traversing a rich territory, and if its financing through stock in part had kept pace with its rapid physical development it could have supported its increased debt. A proper reorganization now will as surely restore the property to its former standing.

Six and Half a Dozen.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Is it more barbarous for German troops to attack English towns and kill English civilians than for French and English troops to attack German towns and kill German civilians?

J. A. WAGNER.

BERLIN, N. H. August 18.

August Nineteenth.

Hats off to the old Constitution!

It's a hundred and three years today since her skipper and crew showed what Yankees can do.

When equipped and prepared for the fray she sailed from our shores single handed, while the pacifists cautioned, beware!

For the long haul she took back till she'd captured the foe's Guerrier!

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In New York and Brooklyn we have WILLIAM HENRY CHAMBERLAIN, father of the short ballot. As to the tariff, we have that man who never lets up, ALBERT J. REVERDUS of Indiana. When it comes to social justice, economic and industrial "reforms" there is no one more of national preparation, we have THORNDIKE ROOSEVELT.—A Progressive leader.

The department store of politics!

With the increase of education among the Southern people, believe such outrageous (lynchings) will pass as they are in fact already frowned upon by the better educated classes everywhere.—Governor HENRY C. STUART of Virginia.

A good deal remains to be done to banish illiteracy from Georgia. The percentage in that State in 1910, forty-five years after the civil war, was 20.7. Only Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Alabama showed a high rate in the South.

JAMES J. HILL, the railway builder of the Northwest, has been selected by a committee of five as Minnesota's greatest living citizen to accept honors bestowed by the Panama-Pacific Exposition. Mr. Hill belongs to the nation as one of its eminent men no less than to Minnesota. It is a curious thing that our foremost railroad man was born in Canada and that Canada's great railroad man, VAN HORNE and SHAGBURN, saw the light in the United States.

The present position of the Progressive party is reflected in the words of the old hymn that I used to sing in a church choir for "Lead, kindly light, bring us on that path which leads to thee."

What can Brother PERKINS be thinking of? Does he mean to admit that the Progressive party stands "amid the endearing gloom?"

The young couple in South Carolina who eloped on a motorcycle began their family life rather early.

A WHOLE SKELETON.

Catalogue Raisonné of the Famous "Bones" in Baseball.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Following are some of the famous "bones" pulled in baseball during the last fifteen years:

When "BUD" Devereys accomplished the feat of George Stallings as manager of the Boston Braves.

When Fred Merkle forgot to touch second and thereby robbed the Giants of a chance.

When Frank Chance traded "Hal" Chase for Horton and Rolfe Zieder.

When "Chubby" Charles Ebbetts refused to pay Joe Tinker the salary demanded by the latter to play with Brooklyn, which resulted in the "making" of the Federal League.

When Cincinnati traded Mathewson for Ames Rustie.

When Chief Bender refused to come to New York in 1914 to look the Boston Braves over to discover the batter's weak point. Subsequently the Braves won four straight games from the Athletics for the pennant.

When Connie Mack and Organized Baseball permitted Eddie Plank to join the Federal League.

When Anderson stole second with the bases full.

When Vincent Campbell and Wealing of the Braves jumped to the Federal League and lost their share of the world's championship.

When the Feds reduced the price of admission to one dime.

When Mathewson grooved a ball for "Home Run" Baker in the World Series, which the latter knocked into the right field bleachers for a home run.

When the Athletic management refused to permit the Baltimore Orioles to play the Yankees at home.

When Jack Chesbro of the Yankees pitched a game in the rain and permanently disabled his pitching arm.

When the Baltimore Orioles refused to play the Yankees at home.

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